

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1357

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PLOS, AU

SUBJECT: BIO UPDATE ON AUSTRIAN DELEGATES TO MAY 1977 UN
LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE

REF: KIELTY-TRINKA LETTER OF JANUARY 19, 1977

1. FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL BIO INFORMATION, NOT ALREADY
AVAILABLE TO WASHINGTON, WHICH EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO
DEVELOP ON AUSTRIAN DELEGATES TO MAY 1977 LAW OF SEA
CONFERENCE.

A. DR. KARL WOLF: HEAD OF DELEGATION, HOLDS PERSONAL
RANK OF MINISTER (GESANDTER). CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION OF AUSTRIAN MFA.
HIS APPOINTMENT TO HEAD THIS IMPORTANT MFA SECTION APTLY
REFLECTS WOLF'S ABILITY TO MANAGE TO DEGREE NECESSARY FOR
AUSTRIA, COMPLEX MULTILATERAL ISSUES IN VARIETY OF FIELDS.
WOLF HAS AN LAERT, NEAR ENCYCLOPEDIC MIND, POSSESSES GREAT
SELF-CONFIDENCE AND IS HARD-DRIVING, AMBITIOUS PERSON.
HIS POLITICAL COMPETENCE AND JUDGMENT IS SOLICITED AND
APPRECIATED BY MFA TOP LEADERSHIP. IN NEGOTIATIONS AND
OTHER CONFERENCE WORK WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE
ENJOYS WIDE FREEDOM OF ACTION IN MOST DECISION-MAKING
ACTIVITIES BUT THAT HE KEEPS MFA GENERALLY INFORMED
ON DEVELOPMENTS BY FAIRLY FREQUENT TELEPHONE
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CONVERSATIONS. ALTHOUGH NOT A MEMBER OF A POLITICAL
PARTY, WOLF REPORTEDLY IS VERY CLOSE TO CONSERVATIVE
PEOPLE'S PARTY (OVP). HE HAS TWO CHILDREN, BORN IN
1953 AND 1956. WOLF SPEAKS ENGLISH AND FRENCH WELL,
SOME SPANISH, RUDIMENTARY RUSSIAN AND ITALIAN.

B. DR. HELMUT TUREK: FIRST SECRETARY, ASSIGNED

TO MFA INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION. HE HAS MADE A CAREER SPECIALIZING IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES AS THEY AFFECT AUSTRIAN INTERESTS. ALTHOUGH NOT A MEMBER OF A POLITICAL PARTY, TUREK IS QUITE CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE'S PARTY (OVP). HE SPEAKS ENGLISH, FRENCH AND SPANISH. TUEK IS MARRIED AND HAS THREE CHILDREN BORN IN 1968, 1969, AND 1975. AN EMBASSY OFFICER WHO HAS MET HIM DESCRIBES HIM AS CONSERVATIVE AND SCHOLARLY IN APPEARANCE, VERY DELIBERATE AND PRECISE IN SPEECH; TALL SLENDER WITH LIGHT-BROWN HAIR AND PLAIN WIRE-RIMMED GLASSES. HE EXPRESSED SOME CONFUSION ABOUT USG POSITIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND "LINKAGE" AS EXEMPLIFIED BY NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL COMMENT BUT SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED TO SEE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WITH SO MANY VERY COMPETENT AND EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS IN IMPORTANT POSITIONS. HE PARTICULARLY ENJOYED HIS AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL IN PENNSYLVANIA. TUEK HAS A VERY GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. INSTITUTIONS AND PEOPLE AND SEEMS QUITE FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD THE U.S. WITHOUT BEING EFFUSIVE ABOUT IT.

C. ELISZBETH MANN-BORGHESE: ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE SHE IS ADVISOR WITH AUSTRIAN DELEGATION BUT IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE MFA NOR IS SHE AN AUSTRIAN CITIZEN. SHE IS PROBABLY A SWISS CITIZEN, RESIDING IN ZURICH, AND IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE AUTHOR THOMAS MANN. SHE IS AN OCEANOGRAPHIC SPECIALIST AND A MEMBER OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE (SIC). MANN-BORGHESE EVIDENTLY HAS SOME GOOD AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT CONNECTIONS AND IT WAS DECIDED TO INCLUDE HER IN THE DELEGATION IN ORDER FOR HER TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE.

2. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING FIND PHOTOS OF ALL THREE DELEGATION MEMBERS. WILL FORWARD IF OBTAINED. BUCHANAN

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